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## Alaska Department of Fish and Game Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

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# **Advisory Announcement**

For Immediate Release: April 15, 2021

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# SOUTHEAST COVE AND THOMAS BAY TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS FISHERIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The following information details the Northern Southeast Alaska Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) commercial fishing open waters and fishing schedules in the Southeast Cove and Thomas Bay Terminal Harvest Areas (THAs) for the 2021 season.

### **Southeast Cove THA**

NSRAA is forecasting a total run of 158,000 summer chum salmon to the Southeast Cove THA (Figure 1). A portion of the run may be harvested in common property fisheries in Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound.

The Southeast Cove THA are those waters of Keku Strait enclosed by a line from a rocky point on the northern end of Kuiu Island located on the east side of Southeast Cove at 56°52.95′ N lat, 134°01.33′ W long to the northwest corner of Hound Island at 56°53.12′ N lat 133°56.77′ W long, then northwest connecting points along the northern shore of Keku Islands at 56°53.98′ N lat, 133°57.58′ W long to 56°54.90′ N lat, 133°59.53′ W long to 56°55.93′ N lat, 134°00.97′ W long to 56°55.95′ N lat, 134°02.15′ W long to 56°55.22′ N lat, 134°02.53′ W long to 56°56.37′ N lat, 134°06.62′ W long, then to the northwest corner of Payne Island at 56°57.45′ N lat, 134°08.75′ W long, then south to a point on Kuiu Island at 56°55.08′ N lat, 134°09.25′ W long.

Purse seine: will be open from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday and Thursday each week from Sunday, June 20, 2021, through Thursday, August 5, 2021.

Troll: will be open during those periods the purse seine fishery is closed, from 12:01 a.m., Sunday, June 20, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday August 7, 2021.

Currently there are no plans for cost recovery. The THA will close to all fisheries on Saturday, August 7, 2021. However, if significant numbers of fish remain additional common property opportunity may be provided via emergency order (EO) or a cost recovery fishery may be implemented dependent on the presence of wild salmon stocks in the area. If closures or additional openings are warranted, they will be announced by advisory announcement.

### **Thomas Bay THA**

NSRAA is forecasting a total run of 132,000 chum salmon to Thomas Bay THA (Figure 2). This year's return will be the third for this project and will be comprised of 3,4-, and 5-year-old fish. A portion of the run may be harvested in common property fisheries in Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound.

The Thomas Bay THA are those waters of Thomas Bay northeast of a line from Point Vandeput at 57°00.94′ N lat, 133°00.02′ W long, to Wood Point at 56°59.54′ N lat, 132°56.95′ W long, northwest of a line from a point on the mainland shoreline at 56°59.57′ N lat, 132°54.02′ W long to Ruth Island at 57°00.42′ N lat, 132°51.07′ W long, north of line from a point on the southeastern shoreline of Ruth Island at 56°58.70′ N lat, 132°49.13′ W long, to the mainland shoreline at 56°58.70′ N lat, 132°47.32′ W long, west of a line from the mainland shoreline at 56°59.38′ N lat, 132°47.60′ W long, to

the southern tip of Spray Island at 56°59.80′ N lat, 132°47.73′ W long, to the northern tip of Spray Island at 57°00.07′ N lat, 132°47.80′ W long, to the mainland shoreline at 57°00.56′ N lat, 132°47.57′ W long, and south of a line from 57°03.00′ N lat, 132°49.62′ W long, to 57°03.00′ N lat, 132°52.03′ W long, with the following restrictions:

<u>Spurt Cove</u>: waters of Spurt Cove are closed northwest of a line from 57°01.98′ N lat, 132°52.49′ W long, to 57°02.08′ N lat, 132°52.37′ W long;

Thomas Bay Bluffs: waters northeast of a line from the northern tip of Spray Island at 57°00.07′ N lat, 132°47.80′ W long to a point on the northern boundary line approximately 0.5 nautical mile (nmi) from the mainland shoreline at 57°03.00′ N lat, 132°50.55′ W long, are closed every Saturday and Sunday of each week from 12:01 a.m., Saturday to 11:59 p.m., Sunday.

Purse seine: will be open from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday and Thursday each week from Sunday, June 20, 2021, through Thursday, August 5, 2021.

Troll: will be open during those periods the purse seine fishery is closed, from 12:01 a.m., Sunday, June 20, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, August 7, 2021.

<u>Chinook Salmon Landing Restrictions for the Southeast Cove and Thomas Bay THAs</u>: Chinook salmon harvested in the troll fishery may only be retained during those periods the summer troll fishery is open to retention of Chinook salmon. Chinook salmon harvested in the purse seine fishery 28 inches or greater in length may NOT be retained and Chinook salmon less than 28 inches may be retained but not sold.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1E0721.

Under Alaska's Health advisories 1, 2,3, and 4, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/.

Advisory Announcement web site: <a href="http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main">http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main</a>.

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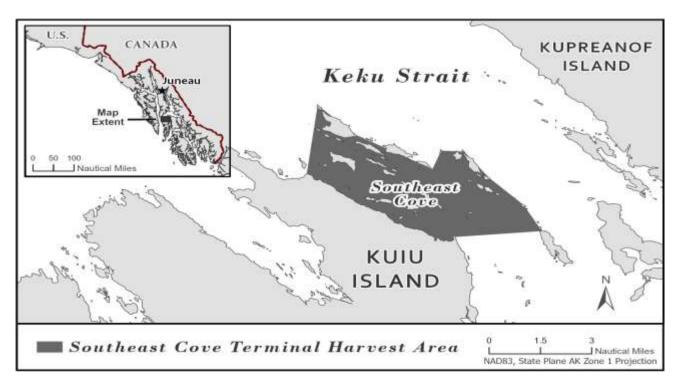


Figure 1.-Map of Southeast Cove THA

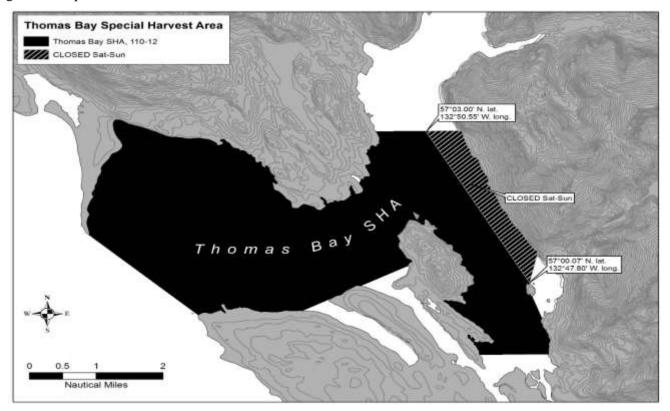


Figure 2.Map of Thomas Bay THA/SHA